

## PROPOSED OUTLINE OF DRAFT URBAN AGRICULTURE BEST PRACTICES WEBPAGE:

Web Links are located adjacent to the question,

Underlined words should have active links to the UDC/ Tucson Code reference, and,

Styles and heading are associated with the hierarchy of the draft ordinance.

## Urban Agriculture

The main aspects of urban agriculture address: local food production and distribution in an urban setting and the raising of small food producing animals in numbers whose impact should not cause a nuisance. Farmers' markets, community gardens, and urban farms are ways to accommodate local food production, security, and distribution. The urban agriculture text amendment complies with the voter-approved (November 5, 2013) *Plan Tucson* policy to update urban agriculture zoning provisions. The Unified Development Code (UDC) outlines the zoning regulated associated with Urban Agriculture. Chapter 4 of the City Code, Animals and Fowl, addresses animal husbandry, pens, corrals, and cruelty and neglect concerns. Chapter 16 of the City Code, the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance (NPO), addresses cleanliness and nuisance standards.

**What is Urban Agriculture?** The practice of producing food locally through the cultivating, processing, distributing, selling, or gleaned of agricultural products and other related activities in the City and may involve horticulture, aquaculture, and animal husbandry. Urban Agriculture maybe practiced under UDC and NPO Code compliance.

- Can I practice urban agriculture on my land? Yes, you can grow food on your property.
- What can I do with the food that I grow? You can consume, sell or trade the food you produce.

Resources: <http://www.urbanfarming.org/>

## Community Gardens

What is a Community gardens? An area of land managed and maintained by non-profit and community based organizations to grow and harvest food crops primarily for the use of its members who typically cultivate individual garden plots. Fees maybe associated with membership. Community gardens should be well kept with contact information available to the public.

### Which UDC zones permit Community Gardens?

RH, SR, SH, RX-1, RX-2, R-1, R-2, R-3, MH-1, MH-2, O-1,-2, O-3, RVC, NC, C-1,C-2, C-3, P, RV, OCR-1, OCR-2, MU, P-1, I-1, and I-2.

Is there one in my neighborhood or how do I join a Community Garden? The Community Gardens of Tucson and the Community Food Bank offer opportunities for people to join or volunteer in gardens around the city. <http://www.communitygardensoftucson.org/garden-list/>

How do I contact a Community Gardens Site Coordinator? Site coordinators are designated for each community garden and manage garden orientations, trainings, cleanliness, and any gardens fees that may be with membership to a garden. <http://www.communitygardensoftucson.org/garden-list/>

Can Community Gardens contain small food producing animals, such as chickens? Yes, the keeping of food producing animals is permitted as an accessory use to the growing and harvesting of agricultural products in accordance with the Code. Additionally, permission from

## PROPOSED OUTLINE OF DRAFT URBAN AGRICULTURE BEST PRACTICES WEBPAGE:

Web Links are located adjacent to the question,

Underlined words should have active links to the UDC/ Tucson Code reference, and,

Styles and heading are associated with the hierarchy of the draft ordinance.

the property owner is required and a sign must be posted identifying the person responsible for caring for the animals and his or her contact information.

The Unified Development Code (UDC) outlines the zoning regulated associated with Community Gardens. When a community garden is the principal use for the site, then the site must meet the zone's minimum lot size requirements. For example, in the R-1 (a common residential zoning district), the minimum lot size requirement is 7,000 sf. There is not a limit on the maximum size of the community garden. When a community garden is an accessory use on the site, then there is no minimum size limit. Community gardens are permitted as an accessory use in any zone in accordance with the standards zoning standards.

What resources are available? <https://communitygarden.org/> or

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org263676.jsp>

Looking for more gardening tips? [http://www.urbanfarming.org/videos.html?ma\\_id=4](http://www.urbanfarming.org/videos.html?ma_id=4)

### Farmers' Markets:

What is a Farmers Market? A place where farmers and growers display, sell, or barter their products directly to consumers and may include produce, locally produced eggs, artisan cheeses, hand-harvested honey, and other fresh, small-batch foodstuffs. The predominant sales area must be for agriculture-related products.

Are Farmer's Markets allowed in my zone? Farmers' markets in **residential zones** are limited to no more than 6 hours between sunrise and sunset. In nonresidential zones, there is no limitation on the hours of operation.

### Urban Farms:

What is an Urban Farm? An Urban Farm is the growing and harvesting of agricultural products to provide food, fiber, or horticultural vegetation for ornamental purposes in a non-residential area. Typical uses include aquaponic farms and hydroponic crop production, nurseries, greenhouse, and commercial gardens.

Can I keep small food producing animals on my Urban Farm? Yes, as an accessory use in accordance with the UDC, Chapter 4 and NPO (find links above).

**Composting:** What is composting? A mixture of various decaying organic substances used for fertilizing soil.

Can I practice composting on my land or in a community garden? Yes, as long as the composting area or pile is maintained as follows: 1. Contained; 2. Maintained, so as not to produce offensive odors or attract flies or vermin; 3. Located, as reasonably as possible, so that it is not visible from abutting properties or streets; and; 4. Maintained in compliance with all rules, regulations and procedures that with applicable

## PROPOSED OUTLINE OF DRAFT URBAN AGRICULTURE BEST PRACTICES WEBPAGE:

Web Links are located adjacent to the question,

Underlined words should have active links to the UDC/ Tucson Code reference, and,

Styles and heading are associated with the hierarchy of the draft ordinance.

sections of the Tucson Code, Section 4-28 of Animals and Fowl and Section 16-13 of Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance

Resources:TucsonOrganicGardeners:

<http://www.deq.pima.gov/waste/pdf/homecompostinginthedesert.pdf> or

[http://tucson.com/lifestyles/home-and-garden/garden/tips-for-starting-a-desert-compost-pile/article\\_424bc1b6-f5a5-11e4-8994-5f3711dcf884.html](http://tucson.com/lifestyles/home-and-garden/garden/tips-for-starting-a-desert-compost-pile/article_424bc1b6-f5a5-11e4-8994-5f3711dcf884.html)

**Gardens:** What is a garden? An area used for growing flowers, fruit, or vegetables in the ground, in containers, and in greenhouses. Gardens include aquaponic and hydroponic systems.

**Greenhouses:** What is a greenhouse? An enclosed structure or hope system (as by glass, plastic or material) used for the cultivation or protection of plants and does not use motorized heating or cooling systems. Greenhouses shall be kept in order and not create a visual or notable nuisance. For the purposes of the determining perimeter yard requirements, greenhouses cooled solely by an evaporative cooler are considered passive greenhouses.

Are there other types of greenhouses? Yes, a greenhouse can also be mechanically heated or cooled enclosed structures (as by glass, plastic, or material) used for the cultivation or protection of plants and uses mechanical systems to heat or cool the structure. For the purposes of the determining perimeter yard requirements, greenhouses cooled solely by an evaporative cooler are considered passive greenhouses. Mechanical greenhouses must have a setback 200 ft from all property lines.

Can I have a greenhouse on my property? Yes, greenhouses can be located on residential property as long as they meet zoning regulations for dimensional standards and measurements and may not be higher than 12 ft height as an accessory use.

**Hydroponics :** What is hydroponics? The cultivation of plants in nutrient solution rather than in soil.

**Aquaponics :** What is aquaponics? A system of aquaculture in which the waste produced by farmed fish or other aquatic animals supplies nutrients for plants grown hydroponically, which in turn purify the water. Aquaponics is conducted in a constructed, automatic re-circulating system.

**Keeping of food producing animals:** What is a food producing animal? Animals such as miniature goats, fowl such as chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys, and other similar small food producing animals. Dogs, cats, pigeons, other non-food producing fowl, and fish are **not** considered food producing animals for the purposes of applying the food producing animal standards in the UDC.

Can I have food producing animals on my property? Yes, the keeping of food producing animals is permitted as accessory to the growing and harvesting of agricultural products in accordance with Section 6.6.5.F, Keeping of Food Producing Animals. Researching animal husbandry technics including best practices in the desert environment in important aspect of caring for animals. Providing a safe, predator

## PROPOSED OUTLINE OF DRAFT URBAN AGRICULTURE BEST PRACTICES WEBPAGE:

Web Links are located adjacent to the question,

Underlined words should have active links to the UDC/ Tucson Code reference, and,

Styles and heading are associated with the hierarchy of the draft ordinance.

free shelter is vital to the health and safety of the animals. Best practices include, self-closing doors, windows which contain heavy gage wire, and insuring thee animals have room to move about freely and spread their wings.

**Chickens and Fowl:** Can I have chickens in my back yard? Yes, you can raise chickens on your property. The number allowed or animal unit (AU) depends on the size of your property and the location of your neighbor's house or dwelling location.

**What is an Animal Unit?** Two Animal Units are given for each 1,000 square feet of lot size with an overall maximum cap. There are five animals assigned Animal Units: chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, and miniature goats.

Chickens = 1 unit, ducks = 2 units, turkeys and geese = 4 units, and, Miniature goats = 5 units.

How many Animal Units can I have? This number varies depended on the size of your parcel of record. For instance, if you have a 8,000 square foot lot, you can have 16 Animal Units.

What size is my property? You can locate the size of the property by contacting Planning and Developments Services, at 791- 5550 or the Pima County Assessor's website by address or parcel number. [http://www.asr.pima.gov/links/frm\\_AdvancedSearch\\_v2.aspx?](http://www.asr.pima.gov/links/frm_AdvancedSearch_v2.aspx?)

Other animals such as rabbits, fish and similar animals are considered food producing but are not assigned animal units since they reproduce at high rates and are raised in facilities that do not cause a zoning concern. NOTE: These animals are still regulated regarding welfare and nuisance issues in Chapter 4 Animals and Fowl, and Chapter 16 Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance.

Can I have a rooster in the City limits? No, roosters are not allowed with in the city limits. The Part II for the City Code, Chapter Four outlines enforcement issues and setback nuisances.

## **Pen and Shelter Setbacks:-**

For food producing animals, small pens (six feet in height and no more than 16 square feet) to be allowed at the property line. Larger pens must meet a typical accessory structure setback equal to 2/3rds the height of the pen or be set back not less than six feet. All pens must be at least 20 feet from an adjacent property's single-family dwelling. Larger lots of 36,000 square feet must have a fifty-foot setback for pens.

**Other questions:** Can I keep food-producing animals in a community garden? Depending on if the garden allows for small food producing animals. Permission from the property owner is required and a sign must be posted identifying the person responsible for caring for the animals and his or her contact information.